Message Text

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BRUSSELS FOR USEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FR, GW, EAIR

SUBJECT: AIRBUS

1. WE ASSUME PARIS HERALD-TRIBUNE WILL PICK UP RICHARD WITKIN STORY PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED ON PAGE 1 OF THE TIMES FOR FEBRUARY 17 SAYING THAT SALE OF AIRBUS HERE MAY BE ENDANGERED BY NEW YORK PORT AUTHORITY RULE LIMITING THE AIRBUS LOAD ON CRITITICAL LA GUARDIA TAXIWAY AREAS EXTENDED OVER THE EAST RIVER. PROBLEM RELATES TO UNCLASSIFIED

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HARMONICS CREATED BY PLACEMENT OF WHEEL CLUSTERS IN AIRBUS UNDERCARRIAGE, SINCE U.S. TRANSPORTS OPERATE WITH HEAVIER LOAD FACTORS. TIMES SAYS LIMIT WOULD PRECLUDE FULL LOAD FOR FLIGHT TO HOUSTON AND QUOTES BORMAN AS SAYING EASTERN PURCHASE WOULD DEPEND UPON ABILITY TO SERVICE HOUSTON NON-STOP FROM LA GUARDIA.

2. AIRBUS REPRESENTATIVE HERE REGRETS PUBLICITY AND IS HOPEFUL TECHNICAL PERSONNEL CAN RESOLVE THE QUESTIONS. AIRBUS TECHNICAL REPS HAVE RETURNED TO EUROPE FOLLOWING TALKS AT NEW YORK. VANCE

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